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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 PM-04 EB-07 L-03 TRSE-00 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 /036 W
---------- 084628
R 051710Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7388
INFO USCINCEUR NECJ4/7-PRM//
DSA/DPDR-E, LINDSEY AS GER//EI//

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7339

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IT, CASC
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY; DOD SALE NO. 50-6112

REF: STATE 106140, DTG 020300Z MAY 76

1. EXPORTATION OF MAP EXCESS AIRCRAFT FROM ITALY TO THE U.S. IS A COMPLEX PROCESS INVOLVING APPROVAL OF MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, FOREIGN COMMERCE AND DEFENSE. IN THIS CASE, THE BUYER'S FORWARDING AGENT WAS REPEATEDLY ADVISED BY THE MAAG THAT AN EXPORT PERMIT WAS REQUIRED. WHEN THE AGENT FINALLY APPLIED FOR A PERMIT ON MAY3, HE WAS INFORMED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE THAT AN EXPORT PERMIT COULD NOT BE ISSUED TO A FOREIGN COMPANY SITUATED ABROAD. THE AGENT HAS NOW ASKED THE EMBASSY TO TAKE ACTION TO OBTAIN A LICENSE TO EXPORT THE AIRCRAFT.

2. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE SHIPPING AGENT HAS ONLY DISCOVERED AT THIS LATE DATE, AFTER ALL THE AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE SHPPING PORT, THAT HIS CLIENT DOES NOT QUALIFY UNDER ITALIAN LAW AS AN EXPORTER. HOWEVER, A MISSION OFFICER TODAY DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IMPORT/EXPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE IN THE HOPE OF FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. HE WAS INFORMED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CIRCUMVENT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY. AS THE AIRCRAFT WERE IMPORTED AND NATIONALIZED BY THE MINISTRY
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OF DEFENSE, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SUGGESTED THAT AN EXPORT

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LICENSE REQUESTED BY AND ISSUED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE COULD BE USED TO EFFECT THE SHIPMENT OF THE AIRCRAFT. IN ORDER TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN BUYER, THE EMBASSY WILL SET THE PROCESS IN MOTION THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIOR TO A SCHEDULED INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING ON MAY 6. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE BELIEVES THAT AN EXPORT LICENSE WOULD BE READY IN TIME TO PERMIT THE SHIPMENT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 15.

3. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO POINT OUT TO CONGRESSMAN CORNELL THAT THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE USG IN THIS MATTER ENDED WITH THE SALE, THAT OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS MATTER DERIVES FROM THE TRADITIONAL CONCERN OF AMERICAN EMBASSIES ABROAD TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND IMPLIES NO ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DELAYS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE MATTER.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, POLICIES, EXPORT LICENSES, MILITARY SALES, SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME07339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760174-0654
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760588/aaaacxkf.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 106140
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY; DOD SALE NO. 50-6112
TAGS: MARR, CASC, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006